

1 by successfully completing the Louisiana School Bus Operator Training Course as
2 prescribed by the state Department of Education and conducted by a department certified
3 trainer; and

4 WHEREAS, currently, all preservice school bus driver training must be conducted
5 by instructors certified by the state Department of Education and who are required to use the
6 school bus driver training curriculum prescribed by the department; and

7 WHEREAS, bus driver training curricula developed by private providers, while not
8 identical to the curriculum developed by the state Department of Education, have been used
9 successfully in more than 2,700 school districts across the country to provide training to
10 school bus drivers; and

11 WHEREAS, certain private providers of school bus training and curricula have been
12 recognized by traffic safety organizations such as the National Association for Pupil
13 Transportation; and

14 WHEREAS, a number of major insurance providers recognize and recommend the
15 school bus driver training programs offered by certain private providers to schools and
16 school districts because of the positive impacts such training programs have on reducing
17 preventable accidents and claims, thereby increasing school bus safety and reducing
18 insurance premiums; and

19 WHEREAS, regardless of the curriculum used, the primary purpose of school bus
20 driver training is to educate drivers to operate a school bus in a safe and efficient manner,
21 thereby ensuring the safety of the state's school children; and

22 WHEREAS, schools and school districts should have the option to choose among all
23 qualified providers of school bus driver training and curricula that meet or exceed the state
24 requirements.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26 direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of
27 Education to establish policies and procedures to evaluate school bus driver training
28 curricula utilized by private providers and to certify qualified private providers to deliver
29 required training to Louisiana school bus drivers, provided their curriculum includes the
30 training and topics prescribed by the department.

